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Aruba Hospital receives positive report from Amsterdam



Just recently, Professor Mark Kramer, professor of internal medicine at the Vrije Universiteit of Amsterdam, presented a very positive report to the Aruba Dr. Horacio E. Oduber Hospital. The report was received by surgeon, Dr. Daryanani, who heads up the educational committee of the hospital. The report is the result of a visit back in November 2012 when a delegation of the Vrije Universiteit evaluated the Hospital as an institution where medical students of the Vrije Universiteit can do their

internships. The VU considered our hospital as offering a pleasant learning experience about how to care for patients.

The relationship between the VU and the Aruba Hospital exists for some years now. This relationship has resulted in being very beneficial to the Hospital with respect to the improvement of care. VU is able to send various students to different departments and for different specializations depending on how many we can comfortably accommodate here.

Continued on page 5

VATICAN CITY (AFP) - Argentina's Jorge Mario Bergoglio was elected Pope Francis I yesterday, becoming the first Latin American pontiff in a surprise decision that raised the prospect of a more open Catholic Church.

The 76-year-old moderate emerged smiling on to the balcony of St Peter's Basilica to the cry of "Habemus Papam!" ("We Have a Pope!"), as tens of thousands of pilgrims cheered, cried and applauded.

Francis called for "brotherhood" among the Church's 1.2 billion Catholics and prayed the Hail Mary together with the crowd in St Peter's Square.

He said he felt as if cardinals had gone to "the other end of the world" to find him -- and across the Atlantic Ocean in Buenos Aires celebrations erupted.

Francis also publicly thanked his predecessor Benedict XVI, who shocked the world by resigning last month in a move unseen for seven centuries.

The historic election after 85-year-old Benedict's abrupt resignation last month was being followed around the world on live television as well as through social media and smartphone apps -- this is the first ever tweeted conclave.

Latin America has the highest number of Catholics in the world and there had been growing calls for the new pope to come from the southern hemisphere for the first time but Bergoglio was never considered one of the frontrunners.

The new pope is seen as austere and media-shy. He is believed to have been the runner-up at the conclave in 2005 that elected Benedict -- although details of the deliberations are secret.

White smoke earlier billowed from the chimney on the

"Habemus Papam!" Argentina's Bergoglio becomes Pope Francis I



Argentina's Jorge Bergoglio, elected Pope Francis I (C) is seen at the window of St Peter's Basilica's balcony after being elected the 266th pope of the Roman Catholic Church. (AFP PHOTO)

Sistine Chapel and the bells of St Peter's Basilica rang out, signalling the election had taken place after five rounds of voting -- one more than when Benedict was elected.

Bergoglio is the first Jesuit to become pope.

The Argentinian of Italian descent, who is the 266th pope in the Catholic Church's 2,000-year history, retired to a chamber known as the "Room of Tears" immediately after the nomination to don his white papal vestments and then prayed in the Pauline Chapel.

Bells pealed in churches across Italy to celebrate the announcement and residents of Rome raced to the floodlit 17th-century Vatican plaza, running out of their homes and cafes to reach the square in time.

Cardinals have been locked up behind the Vatican walls and cut off from the outside world since Tuesday, meeting in a sublime Renaissance chapel swept for recording devices and installed with scramblers to prevent any communication.



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Crime is focus of "Mind Your Eye 2013 Conference

The annual conference "Mind Your Eye" this year will deal with topics related to the prevention and combating of crimes. The event is scheduled to take place on May 24th at the Hyatt Regency Aruba. International as well as local speakers are on the speaker's list.

Keynote speaker this year will be Timothy Zehring. Zehring is an expert in the field of safety and security with more than 20 years of experience in the prevention of acts of crimes. He is the founder of the organization "Arizona Based International Crime Free Association." The topics he is expected to address are on robbery and armed attacks and on the prevention of crimes in Hotels.

Dutch speaker, Theo Surig of "De Nederlandsche Bank" will give a presentation titled: "The Nederlandsche Bank from re-active to pro-active." Surig is a dynamic person who transformed the security department of the DNB into a modern organization which today serves as an example to other high risk institutions. Surig is member of among others, the security task force of

the European Central Bank.

Local experts will also address this conference, such as Diana Salcedo, clinical psychologist of MedWork. Salcedo will speak on the topic of the danger at work in the aftermath of an employee who became a victim of a crime attack or of other violent act.

Traditionally, this conference on Mind Your Eye is a platform for the exchange of ideas and experiences, where participants from Aruba and from the other islands come together to share their knowledge regarding the matter of criminality. This year they plan to have an interaction session.

All professionals locally and from our sister islands and their companies have a high margin of risk and vulnerability for crimes. Hence, this conference can provide a real platform for valuable information in knowing how best to protect yourself. Visit the website: www.hwtrainingaruba.org for more information concerning this interesting conference.



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An epic collaboration for the new school program **"Sow Today, Harvest Tomorrow"**

Representatives of the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association Environmental Committee, (AHATA) Foundation Aruba Conciente and Serlimar, Aruba's national waste management company, joined with Dalila Boye of the Foundation Gabriel Flores in announcing a island-wide program at schools to raise awareness regarding preserving and respecting the environment.

Foundation Gabriel Flores is dedicated to the preservation of island traditions, going to the various schools teaching the use of native musical instruments and aspects of culture. They have decided to take this a step further to instruct school children regarding the native plants from which families can harvest fresh fruits, for healthier diets.

The agricultural department of Santa Rosa is donating the endemic, fruit bearing plants, and there is a call for sponsors and volunteers for the program to help plant them at ten schools that have been selected for the pilot program.

Students will learn the responsibility of caring for the young trees, seeing them flourish, and the reward of harvesting the fruit. The program has already begun with the Marriott Care planting at Fatima school, as well as executing repairs and painting of the facility.

Vanessa Rasmussen of the AHATA Environmental Committee expressed the association's staunch support of the program, declaring they have already "adopted" the primary schools of Macuarima and Laura Wernet Paskel. She urges companies and resorts to join them in sponsoring the program and lending volunteers.

Natalie Wolff of Serlimar



Natalie Wolff, Dalila Boye, Vanessa Rasmussen, Urvin Leest

Urvin Leest, founder of Aruba Conciente, is dedicated to teaching soil preserving and unique and organic methods of planting crops. He is a staunch advocate of islanders becoming self-sustaining by growing their own fresh fruits and vegetables. He will be conducting workshops with the schoolchildren regarding organic agriculture, including teaching them how to make compost heaps out of the dried up leaves and plants.

Continued on page 4

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New book and CD on the market - "Insights of Truth"



Last February 28th, Marjorie Rumnit officially presented her new book of poems and accompanying CD. The book of poems and CD are dedicated to all ages, big and small. Marjorie is a very spiritual person who shares this aspect of her life with family and everyone around her.

As a mother she reads to children at school, guides children at the YMCA with their school work, but also shares spiritual aspects of values and norms. One of her focus groups is young people, which are so vulnerable. Marjorie is an example of how we ought to share and transmit the values of our forefathers to today's youth.

Insights of Truth, title of

Marjorie's new book, is a collection of poems and meditations that Marjorie has compiled over the past 14 years. They are reflections of her own experiences regarding life and the goal of our life here on earth. The topics of her poems and meditations are of Love, Peace, Tolerance and Faith.

Through Insights of Truth, Marjorie gives us a different tool to achieve new insight into our lives. Insights of Truth is not intended to be read just once and then to be laid away...it deserves a place next to our bed, on our desk. It ought to be consulted frequently for its insights on Love, Compassion and Peace. Through her book and CD, Marjorie has demonstrated her talents as a poet, composer, reciter and singer.

UNOCA was honored to have contributed to the realization of this project, which is certain to be well received by our community.

Below is a few quotes from Insights of Truth:

*"I am Life. All is one
in Me. Cherish this Wisdom;
have Peace in your heart"*

*While living in this awareness
we have the power to touch
lives and to transform this world
into a World of Love, where
compassion, tolerance, patience,
forgiveness and understanding
reign. We will be living our life's
purposes. We will shine brighter,
light up our surroundings and
inspire our neighbours.
∞*

*The most efficient way to change
the World is to perfect
yourself ∞*

RBC signs agreement with the Dutch Caribbean Golf Association to sponsor youth tournament



Pierre Rafini and Maurice Jansen sign agreement



Young Golfers are ready to compete

Officers of the newly formed Dutch Caribbean Golf Association (DCGA) were very pleased to announced on Friday, March 8, the RBC Royal Bank is the title sponsor of the RBC Junior Open Championships.

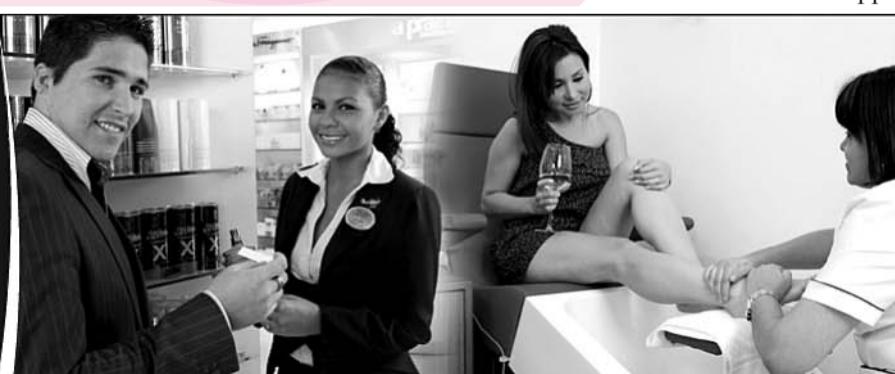
The long-running qualifying heats will be conducted on the islands of Aruba, Curacao and Bonaire, which have seven golf courses in total. Each course will be deployed during the preliminary events. This will give young players from each island the opportunity to

play on home ground, as well as explore new courses. "The goal of these tournaments is to give talented young players a chance to raise the quality of their skills to compete in a wider international field," explained DCGA Secretary Adam Williamson, Head Golf Pro of the Tierra Del Sol Country Club and Golf Course. The tournament is open to players from the ages of five through seventeen, and the final international even is scheduled for the end of June.

Continued on page 4

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Seaport Casino celebrates 20 years and patrons are the winners!

Whether their bet paid off or not, everyone at the Seaport Casino in the Renaissance Marketplace on Tuesday evening, March 12, had smiles on their faces for the celebration of the storefront casino's 20th anniversary.

Management, floor staff and guests were feeling jolly as flutes of champagne were passed out with celebratory cupcakes. The entire casino was festooned with colorful balloons and decorations, while regular clients enjoyed even more attentive service than usual.

Raffle tickets were distributed from the players center, and all through the night, numbers were called to win weekend stays at the Renaissance Resort, days on Renaissance Island, or dinners and lunches at L.G. Smith Steak and Chophouse or Aquarius restaurants.

Not only does the casino give away about six a cars a year from winners on their penny slots, but they revel in the loyal patronage of their devoted clients. Everyone enjoyed the festive ambiance for a memorable anniversary fete!

Rosalie Klein



Champagne for all



An epic collaboration...

Continued from page 2

Mr. Leest is also in the process of translating a book "Think Green, Think Blue" to Aruban Papiamento, which they hope to distribute to all schoolchildren. This program is also seeing sponsors for the printing.

The "Sow Today, Harvest Tomorrow" ("Sembra Awe, Cosecha Mayan") program will have a booth during the official opening of the Linear Park at the Plaza Turismo this coming Sunday, March 17, where interested parties can obtain more information. Organizers of this ambitious, far-reaching program hope to see it established in all schools, where school grounds that are

bare will become flourishing gardens. Schoolchildren can then bring to their families the techniques they have learned. The campaign will continue with a completion date of the pilot project set for June 5, International Environment Day. They plan at that time to unveil ten refurbished schoolyards with thriving gardens. Those interested in volunteering for the program or providing sponsorship can contact the Foundation Gabriel Flores at eco4life-aruba@hotmail.com or call 566-8115.

Rosalie Klein

RBC signs an agreement...

Continued from page 3

President of the DCGA, Maurice Janssen, expressed his great satisfaction of RBC Royal Bank's enthusiastic support, which has been contracted for the next three years. Signing the agreement on behalf of RBC Royal Bank was Area Vice President Business Banking Pierre Rafini, who is

also Vice President of the DCGA.

Young golfers wishing to compete can contact Adam Williamson at the Tierra Del Sol at: adam.williamson@tierradelsol.com or call: 586-7800 and ask for the Pro Shop.

Rosalie Klein



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Aruba Hospital receives positive report from Amsterdam

Continued from page 1

According to Professor Kramer, it is a known fact that hospitals around the world where there is a training and educational program, always offer better quality of care than those without such a program. Students have a way of keeping doctors on their toes and alert to respond to their many queries.

Dr. Falconi, medical director of Aruba's Hospital, informed that the so-called "co-schappen" is the internship that students that have completed their medical training are required to do. These students can choose from a variety of specializations and the university evaluates the hospital where the students can go to do the required work and investigation required by the university.

The report resulted in being very positive, said Falconi. ... "certainly there are things we can change, but the report is positive and that is important for our Hospital." Falconi said that they are prepared to go further relative to the advice and suggestions by VU.

Professor Kramer was pleased with the impressions of students who are already involved in their internship at our Hospital, they are all reporting excellent experiences here. Both parties are therefore very pleased with the results and are intent on proceeding with the program in other areas of the Hospital. All in all this will contribute to an even more optimal health care for Aruba's Hospital.

Late-winter snowstorm batters Europe; causes widespread travel chaos

A heavy late-winter snowstorm has battered northwestern Europe, causing widespread travel chaos with the cancellation of hundreds of flights at main airports and the suspension of train services including Eurostar.

The unseasonable snowfall - coming only eight days before the official start of spring - also knocked out power to thousands of people in France and left hundreds of motorists stranded in their cars.

France was the worst affected but Germany, Britain, Belgium and the Netherlands

also reported major disruptions.

Frankfurt Airport, Europe's third-busiest hub, had reopened two runways by late Tuesday after briefly forced to completely close due to the heavy snow.

Paris's two main airports, Charles de Gaulle and Orly, said they had cancelled up to a quarter of flights and the nearby Beauvais airport, serving mainly low-cost airlines, cancelled all flights.

The Eurostar train between London and Paris, the Thalys line between Paris and Brus-

sels and all other high-speed train lines in northern France were suspended Tuesday.

Two northern French regions, Calvados and Manche, were under a "red alert" urging residents to stay indoors -- the first time such an alert was activated because of snow.

Weather service Meteo France described the snowfall as "remarkable for the season."

More than 2,000 people were stranded in their cars as heavy snow paralysed roads in Normandy and Brittany, with many spending the night in emergency shelters.

About 80,000 homes in the north and northwest of France were without power, following snowfalls of up to 30 centimeters and winds creating metre-high snowdrifts. Schools in some northern regions were closed.

A traffic accident near Lille injured 14 people and a 58-year-old homeless man was found dead, presumably from the cold, outside a building in the town of Saint-Brieuc in Brittany.

Hundreds of people around Britain were also stuck in their car, some for more than 10

hours as ice, snow and freezing winds descended on southeastern England.

Police, rescue services, snow ploughs and gritting lorries battled to help the motorists in temperatures as low as minus 3 degrees Celsius (26 degrees Fahrenheit), with some areas under 10 centimetres of snow.

A mass pile-up in the western German state of Hesse involving at least 100 vehicles injured several dozen. The crash was apparently caused by heavy snowfall and icy roads.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS**Dutch thriller pioneers smartphone 'second screens' in cinema**

AMSTERDAM (AFP) - Dutch thriller "APP," about a mysterious personal assistant application that takes over mobile phones, requires viewers for the first time to look at their smartphones in the cinema to view extra footage.

In the film, nefarious app "Iris" -- which happens to be the name of the personal assistant found on Apple's iPhone, Siri, written backwards -- takes control of the smartphone of the heroine, 21-year-old psychology student Anna.

"We wanted to make a film about mobile phones, about how the technology can turn on us," Edvard van 't Wout of production company 2CFilm told AFP at a press viewing yesterday.

Van 't Wout says this is the first time that such "second screen" technology has been used in a cinema.

The film begins with a parody of the typical request from cinemas and asks viewers to "kindly turn on their mobile phones".

Similar technology has however been used in films to be viewed at home.

The idea behind "APP" is simple: viewers download application software to their smartphones or tablets and activate it in the cinema.

Film content within the app is activated at specific points in the film thanks to inaudible signals in the soundtrack.

Viewers see silent plot elements appear on their smartphones: text messages between the film's heroine and her best friend, a newspaper story about a suicide on the big screen or what the heroine herself is seeing on her phone.

The thriller, rated for 12-year-olds and over, can be watched without a second

screen, but "you lose out," director Bobby Boermans told AFP.

Boermans says creating the film was a bit like "having to write two scripts."

Some shots in the film were deliberately lengthened in editing to allow viewers time to digest the small-screen information before turning back to the big screen.

The film is due out in the Netherlands on April 4 and is set to be dubbed into English for foreign release.

Court upholds genocide trial for Guatemala's ex-dictator

GUATEMALA CITY (AFP) - Guatemala's highest court has rejected an amnesty appeal by former dictator Efraim Rios Montt, who faces charges of genocide in the deaths of thousands of indigenous people during his regime in the 1980s, sources said yesterday.

The sources said that the country's highest court, the Court of Constitutionality, rejected Rios Montt's legal bid to have the court case against him thrown out.

In doing so, it "upholds an earlier ruling by country's Supreme Court" which already had rejected his amnesty appeal, according to the source, one of the litigants in the case, which said the high court ruling was issued Tuesday.

The decision to put Rios

Anglican leader, Obama wish new pope 'every blessing'

LONDON (AFP) - Justin Welby, leader of the world's Anglicans, yesterday wished "every blessing" to the newly elected Pope Francis I of Argentina and said he looked forward to working with the 76-year-old pontiff.

The new Archbishop of Canterbury said: "We wish Pope Francis every blessing in the enormous responsibilities that he has assumed on behalf of Roman Catholics around the world.

"I look forward to meeting Pope Francis, and to walking and working together to build on the consistent legacy of our predecessors," he said in a

Montt on trial will mark the first time genocide proceedings have been brought over the 36-year civil war in Guatemala that ended in 1996, leaving an estimated 200,000 people dead, according to the United Nations. He was in power from 1982 to 1983.

His attorneys have said that Rios Montt never knew the army was committing massacres during his administration.

Due to stand trial along with Rios Montt is retired general Jose Rodriguez, a former member of the military leadership.

Human rights advocates said the prosecution of Jose Efraim Rios Montt is an important symbolic victory for the victims of one of the most horrific of the conflicts that devastated Central America during the last decades of the Cold War.

statement.

Welby stressed that the election was of "great significance to Christians everywhere, not least among Anglicans.

"We have long since recognised, and often reaffirmed, that our Churches hold a special place for one another."

In Washington, US President Barack Obama yesterday offered "warm wishes" on behalf of the American people to newly elected Pope Francis I, hailing the Argentine as "the first pope from the Americas."

"As a champion of the poor and the most vulnerable among us, he carries forth the message of love and compassion that has inspired the world for more than two thousand years, that in each other we see the face of God," he said.

"On behalf of the American people, Michelle and I offer our warm wishes to His Holiness Pope Francis as he ascends to the Chair of Saint Peter and begins his papacy," Obama said in a statement issued by the White House.

"His selection also speaks to the strength and vitality of a region that is increasingly shaping our world, and alongside millions of Hispanic

Americans, those of us in the United States share the joy of this historic day," he added.

"Just as I appreciated our work with Pope Benedict XVI, I look forward to working with His Holiness to advance peace, security and dignity for our fellow human beings, regardless of their faith."

Obama's vice president, Joe Biden, is a Catholic. A White House official told AFP that he would go to Rome to represent the United States at Francis I's inaugural mass on Tuesday next week.

Around a quarter of Americans are Roman Catholics -- around 80 million people, the fourth largest national group in the global Church.

Obama and his family are Protestant Christians, sharing the faith of about half of US citizens, but he has visited the Vatican, where he met former pope Benedict XVI in July 2009.

His administration and the Church have not always seen eye-to-eye, however, and he has been criticized by bishops opposed to health care laws that would force Catholic organizations to fund employee cover for contraception.



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International News

Police detain child 'bombers' in Pakistan

QUETTA (AFP) - Pakistani police have arrested around a dozen children, some as young as 10, suspected of being used to plant bombs for separatist militants, officers said.

A Baluch militant organisation had lured the children, who came from poor families, to leave packages containing home-made bombs in markets, dustbins and on routes used by police and security forces, local police chief Mir Zubair Mahmood said.

Mahmood said the militants chose the youngsters knowing that police would not suspect small children or garbage collectors.

"Some of the children said they did not know what the packets contained and what they are doing," he said. "They said they were happy they would get a small amount of money for

dropping the packets."

Some of the boys, aged between 10 and 17, have confessed to involvement in about a dozen blasts in the city including a bombing near a vehicle of the paramilitary Frontier Corps (FC), he said.

The January 10 bomb blast killed two FC soldiers and nine civilians.

Baluchistan has been hit by an insurgency in recent years by Baluch nationalists demanding political autonomy and a greater share of profits from the province's wealth of natural oil, gas and mineral resources.

The province has also been the focus of rising sectarian violence and Quetta has been hit by two huge bombings this year targeting minority Shiite Muslims that have killed nearly 200 people.

Germany bans three Islamist Salafist groups

BERLIN (AFP) - Germany said on Wednesday it had banned three Islamist Salafist groups which officials said aimed to sweep aside democracy and set up a system based on Sharia Islamic law.

The interior ministry said the bans, which come amid stepped-up observation of the Salafist community in Germany, took effect early Wednesday in the western states of Hesse and North Rhine-Westphalia.

The targeted organisations are "DawaFFM" and "Islamische Audios", as well as "An-Nussrah", which is part of the "Millatu Ibrahim" group that was already banned in June, a ministry statement said.

Searches were carried out at the homes of 20 people and property was seized, it added.

Interior Minister Hans-Peter Friedrich said the groups were seeking in an "aggressive militant" way to change society "in which democracy is to be replaced by a Salafist system and the rule of law by Sharia".

At the time of the "Millatu Ibrahim" network ban, hundreds of police raided more than 70 homes, schools and mosques across the country in a clamp-down on what one official described as "dangerous extremists".

German authorities estimate that there are about 4,500 Salafists in the country.

They espouse an austere form of Sunni Islam but officials in Germany accuse them of also condoning violence against state institutions.

The Salafists raised concern last year with their drive to convert non-Muslims, a campaign that involved handing out 25 million copies of the Koran in Germany, Austria and Switzerland.



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Returning jihadists prompt Dutch to raise terror threat

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Dutch authorities on Wednesday raised the threat of a terror attack to "substantial", saying the increased risk stemmed mainly from radicalised jihadists returning from fighting in the Middle East, specifically Syria.

"The number of those jihadists travelling from the Netherlands to Syria has rapidly increased," the National Counterterrorism and Safety Coordinator (NCTV) said in a statement.

"There is a risk that those who travel for jihad pick up experience in conflict areas and upon return to the Netherlands form a threat because they could come back radicalised, traumatised and willing to commit violence," the government's anti-terror body said.

The threat of an attack against the Netherlands or its

overseas interests has grown.

The Netherlands has four threat levels: minimal, limited, substantial and critical. The country last saw a substantial threat level being downgraded to limited in November 2009.

In its report released on Wednesday, the NCTV also said that the country continued to be viewed as a legitimate target by jihadists because of perceived discrimination against Muslims.

The report specifically mentioned anti-Islam far-right politician Geert Wilders, who received "negative attention in the Arab-speaking media because of his plans to put Islam back on the political agenda."

A Dutch court in 2011 acquitted Wilders on hate-speech and discrimination charges for making statements attacking Islam, including making a controversial anti-Islam movie and comparing the Koran with

Hitler's "Mein Kampf."

Local media reports this month said Wilders ranked fourth on an apparent extremist death-list, recently published on the Internet.

The flamboyant and outspoken politician lives under constant protection and his movements and private life are closely-guarded affairs.

Earlier this week, Dutch public broadcaster NOS reported that around 100 Dutch citizens were fighting in Afghanistan, Somalia and, mostly, in Syria.

Dutch police in November arrested three would-be jihadists on their way to Syria on charges of "preparing terrorist activities".

Police seized knives, a sword, a crossbow as well as backpacks, farewell letters and a large quantity of jihadist literature in the bust.

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Shining red mice help Czechs fight bowel cancer, skin disease



PRAGUE (AFP) - Injected with a fluorescent protein to make them glow bright red, laboratory mice are helping Czech scientists better understand the causes behind intestinal cancers and skin diseases while leaving the rodents unscathed.

A research group at the Institute of Molecular Genetics at the Czech Academy of Sciences is using proteins obtained from sea organisms like coral to light up mice and observe cell development under their skin without having to kill them.

"We can take the mouse every day and place it under a camera monitoring the light," the group's head Radislav Sedlacek told AFP Wednesday.

"We can use it several times

without killing it, and the data are very objective," he added.

So-called transgenic mice have their genetic backgrounds switched through simple injections or with the use of stem cells.

Sedlacek also plans to use glowing mice treated with several proteins at the same time, for a better monitoring of cellular processes.

"The intestinal wall is very dynamic, you have different processes there, and you can monitor them by switching one colour on and another one off," Sedlacek added.

Unlike traditional research techniques, this method does no harm to the mice if "we make sure the gene we insert does not harm another gene", Sedlacek said.

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Church camp sex diploma shocks Swedish parents

STOCKHOLM (AFP) - A "shagging diploma" given to youths at a Swedish Lutheran Church confirmation camp proved too much for parents who complained Wednesday that their 14-year-olds were too young for sex.

After attending a course entitled "Love and Sexuality", the teenagers in the southeastern town of Ronneby were given a certificate stating they were "qualified for sex".

Vicar Mats-Ola Nylen said the course had been organised by a man purporting to come from the Swedish Association for Sexuality Education (RFSU), but the church later found out he hadn't worked for the organisation in years.

Suspicions were raised after parents complained to Nylen about the certificates, saying their teenage children weren't ready for sex.

They were also upset over the use of colloquial phrases like "giving someone a blow job".

"The whole camp revolves around different aspects of friendships and relationships," Nylen told AFP, adding that he felt betrayed by the man, who wore a t-shirt from RFSU at the event which took place over the weekend.

"In the past, young people

have complained that the Church doesn't talk about these issues."

The vicar had asked to listen in on the session but had been asked to stay away by the man, who said having the vicar there would have had an "inhibitive" effect on participants.

Giving 14-year-olds a certificate saying they were ready to "shag" was sending a mixed message, Nylen said.

"Under Swedish law you don't have a right to engage in sexual activities until you're 15," he noted.

A spokeswoman for RFSU, Josefin Morge, said the organisation stopped using the sex certificates in 2007, and that they had been part of a campaign "not primarily geared at youths".

Although the man no longer worked for RFSU, he had been hired on several occasions by the congregation with no complaints, said Pelle Ullholm, head of RFSU's outreach programmes.

Young people who had more information weren't "necessarily sexually active at a younger age, but possibly at a later age," he said.

The man who held the course was not available for comment.

Health & Living

Extra pounds don't cancel benefits of quitting smoking

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Quitting smoking sharply reduces the risk of heart disease -- even if kicking the habit comes along with a few extra pounds, according to a long-term study.

It's no secret that those living in the throes of nicotine withdrawal can pack on extra padding in compensation. Likewise, extra weight has been linked to extra risk of heart disease.

Nevertheless, the extra weight did not diminish the heart-healthy benefits of eliminating cigarettes, especially among those without diabetes.

The authors used data from a study in which thousands of participants have had a comprehensive medical exam every four to six years for the last four decades.

Focusing in on participant visits from the mid-1980s to the mid-2000s, they found, among more than 3,200 patients, there were 631 "cardiovascular disease events" -- including strokes, heart attacks.

In both participants with and without diabetes, the incidence of these "events" was strikingly lower for those who never smoked or had quit than among smokers.

In an accompanying editorial, Michael Fiore and Timothy Baker of the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health suggest doctors can use this new information to help encourage patients to quit.

"About 50 percent of female smokers and about 25 percent of male smokers are 'weight concerned,' which may discourage quit attempts and quitting success," they wrote.



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Sci-Tech

NASA rover finds conditions once suited to life on Mars



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Analysis of Mars rocks by the Curiosity rover uncovered the building blocks of life -- hydrogen, carbon and oxygen -- and evidence the planet could once have supported organisms, NASA said.

"A fundamental question for this mission is whether Mars could have supported a habitable environment," Michael Meyer, lead scientist for NASA's Mars Exploration Program said. "From what we know now, the answer is yes."

At a televised press conference, the NASA team said this is the first definitive proof a life-supporting environment had existed beyond Earth.

"There are places we've suggested could be habitable, but we haven't measured there," said Dave Blake, principal investigator for Curiosity's Chemistry and Mineralogy investigation.

Curiosity, a six-wheeled robot with 10 scientific instruments on board, is the most sophisticated vehicle ever sent to another planet.

The sample was drilled from sedimentary bedrock in an area which previous research had shown to be an ancient river system or lake bed.

It was found to contain clay minerals, sulfate minerals and other chemicals.

Based on the analysis of those chemicals, researchers were able to determine that the water in which the rocks were formed was of a relatively neutral pH -- not overly salty, acidic, or oxidizing.

"We have found a habitable environment that is so benign and supportive of life, that probably if this water was around and you had been there, you would have been able to drink it," said John Grotzinger, a Curiosity project

scientist from the California Institute of Technology.

Although it is hard to confirm an exact date, it was probably at least three billion years ago, said Grotzinger.

Researchers also noted that future rock samples will be needed to confirm these results, because it is possible that residual carbon on the drill affected the analysis.

But "the instrument is working beautifully," enthused Paul Mahaffy, principal investigator for Curiosity's Sample Analysis at Mars investigation.

The team is already planning out where and when to take the next rock samples, as well as planning out the rover's route to nearby Mount Sharp, where mineral analysis should help with dating calculations.

The \$2.5 billion nuclear-powered Curiosity has been exploring the planet's surface since its dramatic landing on August 6, for an anticipated two-year mission.

Scientists do not expect Curiosity to find aliens or living creatures -- and indeed, they said the rover does not have the capability to identify microbial life or fossils, even if they were present today.

But the analysis of soil and rocks is aimed at finding evidence Mars may have supported life in the past.

Technology to detect Alzheimer's takes SXSW prize



AUSTIN (AFP) - Technology capable of diagnosing Alzheimer's disease long before its symptoms appear won a coveted honor for innovation Tuesday at the South by Southwest (SXSW) festival.

Neurotrack, which uses eye tracking to achieve a claimed 100 percent success rate, took the health technologies category in the SXSW Accelerator competition as the festival's interactive segment drew to a close.

"It's a computer-based visual cognitive test that is able to diagnose Alzheimer's disease six years before symptoms appear," said Elli Kaplan, chief executive officer of the Richmond, Virginia-based startup.

"Today the only way to diagnose Alzheimer's is once full symptoms are in existence," Kaplan told AFP, "but that's years after irreparable damage has already taken place."

Initial users of Neurotrack will be pharmaceutical man-

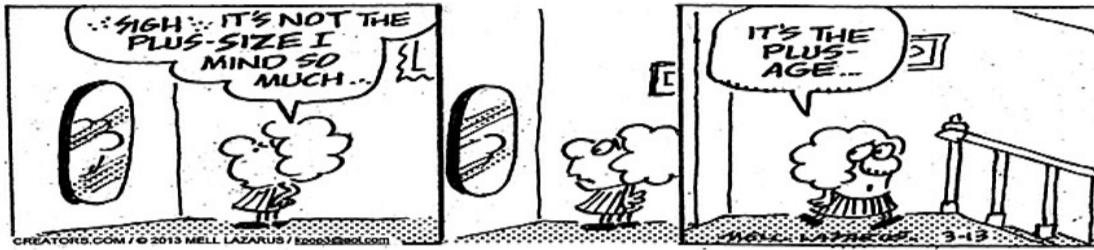
ufacturers to help them develop drugs to prevent, or at least slow the progression, of the most common form of dementia.

But in time, Kaplan said, it will be rolled out to doctor's offices and research hospitals -- and potentially, much further down the road, appear in the form of an app that individuals can use as well.

SXSW Accelerator is a showcase for up-and-coming news, social, mobile, web, entertainment, health and music technologies. One of its 2010 winners, the voice recognition software Siri, now is a standard feature in all Apple iPhones.

Other winners Tuesday included the mobile advocacy app Phone2Action; Plotter, a social network for maps; mobile typing assistant Syntellia; Wanderu, a website for young budget travellers; and MakieLab, a 3D printing toy and game service.

CO MICS

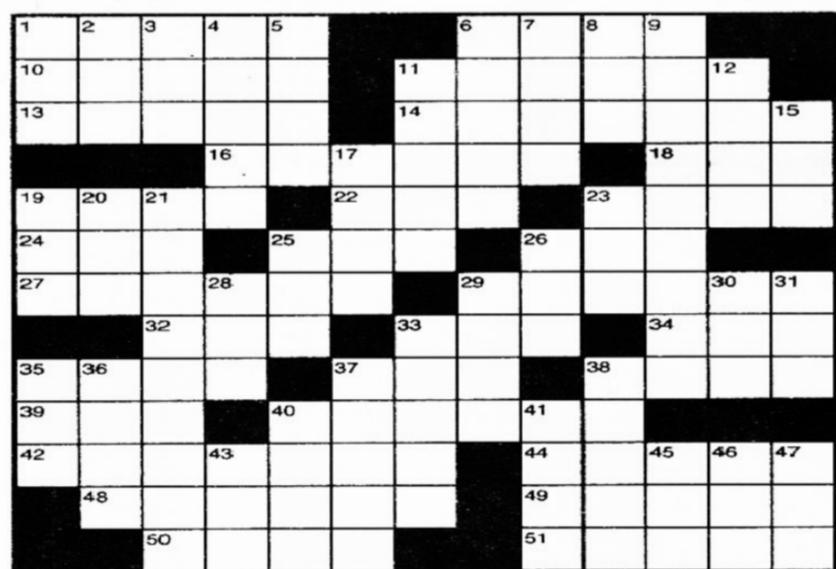
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ACROSS

- Like a lie
- Yogi Bear's home
- Luu greeting
- Ames natives
- Grizzlies, e.g.
- Lattice
- Engraved with acid
- Altar reply (2 wds.)
- Quick tug
- Boathouse item
- Becomes old
- Murphy



Brown's show
25. Secreted
26. Librarian's utterance
27. Shelter for dogs
29. Wheel on a sofa leg
32. Make an effort
33. Parking —
34. A Gabor
35. Met solo
37. Congeal
38. All over again
39. Legislator (abbr.)
40. Give an account
42. Spot for a feather
44. Grind one's molars
48. Musician

Hampton
49. Edmonton athlete
50. Signals consent
51. Benches, e.g.
DOWN
1. Like the four Beatles
2. Beer's cousin
3. Mauna —
4. Donkey's ogre pal
5. West's opposite
6. Kitchen utensil
7. Inspired reverence
8. Kilmer of "Tombstone"
9. Impart knowledge to

11. "___ to Be You" (2 wds.)
12. Aspect
15. Distress message
17. Slinky shape
19. Oliver Stone film
20. Hurricane's center
21. Heroic film pooch (3 wds.)
23. Toe-wiggling sounds
25. "You there!"
26. Was seated
28. '30s relief agency (abbr.)
29. Icy
30. Actress Arden
31. Unpurified
33. McEnroe's court rival
35. Gray shade
36. Factual
37. Tierney and Kelly
38. Golfer Palmer
40. Fan dancer Sally
41. Selves
43. Halloween shout
45. Pie ___ mode (2 wds.)
46. Hollywood backdrop
47. Day's 24 (abbr.)

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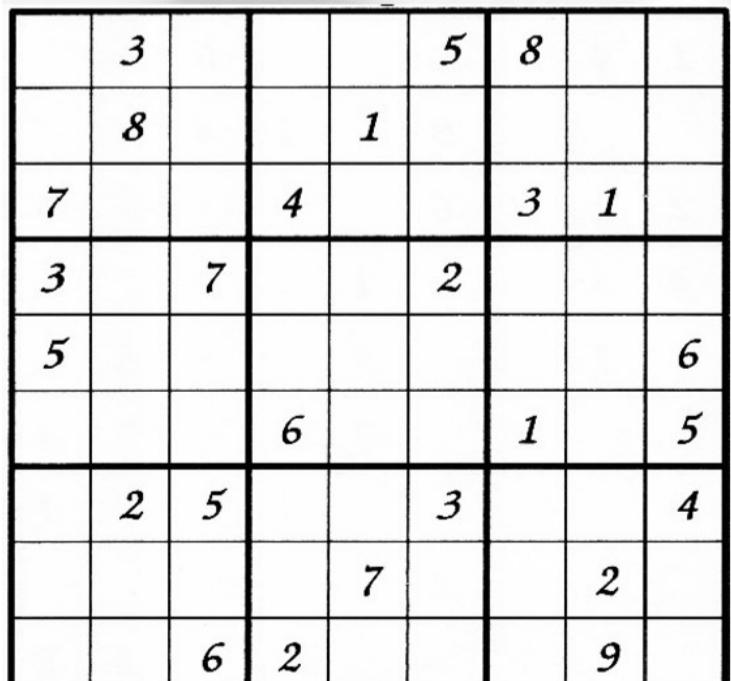
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Sudoku



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10					11			12
13					14			15
16					17			18
19	20	21			22			23
24					25			26
27					28			29
30					31			32
33					34			35
36					37			38
39					40			41
42					43			44
45					46			47
48					49			50
51								

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

Finance

Oil prices mixed after US data, demand downgrade, DOW

LONDON (AFP) - Crude prices diverged on Wednesday following the release of US data including strong retail sales numbers and after a downgrade to a key oil demand growth forecast, analysts said.

Brent North Sea crude for delivery in April slid 86 cents to \$108.85 a barrel in late London deals.

New York's main contract, West Texas Intermediate (WTI) light sweet crude for April gained 23 cents to \$92.77 a barrel.

New York prices rose as official data showed US retail sales picked up sharply in February despite a payroll tax hike.

Retail and food services sales climbed by 1.1 percent from January, the Commerce Department announced, much stronger than the 0.5-percent increase estimated by analysts.

Gasoline sales at the pump jumped 5.0 percent, after a 3.6-percent rise in January, as petrol prices soared over the period.

Elsewhere, the US Department of Energy said crude oil inventories rose last week in

the world's biggest economy -- by 2.6 million barrels, indicating slack demand.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) on Wednesday eased its global forecast for growth in world oil demand for the second straight month, underscoring the effects of uncertainty from the US budget talks, sluggish Chinese business activity and unemployment in Europe.

The Paris-based IEA, which is the oil monitoring and policy arm of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), estimated that demand for oil would total 90.6 million barrels/day this year, a cut of 60,000 barrels from its forecast in February.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) on Tuesday stood pat on its 2013 crude demand forecast, but raised its outlook for production growth by non-OPEC suppliers by 11 percent to 1.0 million barrels a day.

It expects the growth by non-OPEC suppliers to come mainly from North America.

The cartel, which accounts for around 35 percent of global supply, expects global demand of 89.7 million barrels per day in 2013, up 0.8 million from 2012.

The US Energy Information Agency on Tuesday lowered its forecast for the average WTI and Brent prices this year.

It projected the Brent price would fall to an average \$108 a barrel this year from \$112 last year.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average set a new record closing for the seventh straight day Wednesday as US stocks registered small gains.

The Dow added 5.14 points (0.04 percent) at 14,455.20, also its ninth straight day of gains.

The broad-based S&P 500 added 2.03 (0.13 percent) at 1,554.51, while the tech-rich Nasdaq Composite edged up 2.80 (0.09 percent) to 3,245.12.

Stocks gained support from a report of stronger-than-expected retail sales in February, which grew 1.1 percent from January, though partly due to higher gasoline prices.

Apple CEO ordered to testify in e-books case

NEW YORK, March 13, 2013 (AFP) - A judge on Wednesday ordered Apple's chief executive Tim Cook to testify in a case brought by the US government accusing the tech giant of conspiring to raise e-book prices.

Federal Judge Denise Cote issued the order after a teleconference with attorneys from Apple and the US Justice Department.

She said the government may take a deposition from Cook, which could be used in a trial, overruling objections from the company. The order said Cook must testify "for the reasons stated on the record at the teleconference," without elaborating.

Apple lawyers recently argued that Cook should not be compelled to testify because he was not involved in the deals with publishers led by Apple's former chief Steve Jobs before his death in 2011.

The lawsuit filed last year accuses Apple and five publishing firms of colluding to fix prices on electronic books, to change a model developed by Amazon.

Each of the publishers settled with the government, agreeing to cease any special deals with Apple for e-books.

US officials allege the price-fixing scheme was aimed at ending a discounting effort by Amazon, which sold most e-books at \$9.99 until Apple's new pricing plan was forced on the retail giant.



SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Andy Rubin, the brains behind the Google Android operating system which has become the dominant mobile platform, is stepping down as head of that division, the company said Wednesday. Google chief Larry Page announced that Sundar Pichai, the head of its Chrome laptop unit, will take over the team in charge of Android software for smartphones and tablet computers. Under Rubin, Android became the leading platform worldwide for smartphones, accounting for some three-fourths of the market, and has become a major force in tablet computers as well.

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Canada	CAD	1.77	1.79	1.76
Britian	GBP	2.80	2.85	2.71
Switzerland	CHF	191.71	192.43	189.02
Netherlands	EUR	230.59	232.69	233.52
Sweden	SEK	25.91	26.63	28.42
Denmark	DKK	30.23	30.95	31.56
Norway	NOK	30.67	31.39	31.62
Japan	JPY	214.88	216.84	187.43

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Libya to invite bids for oil concessions in 2013

Moamer Kadhafi.

Libya's oil output was reduced to almost zero with the departure of foreign companies and experts during the revolution, but it has since almost recovered to its pre-war level of 1.6 million bpd.

Hydrocarbons account for more than 80 percent of Libya's GNP and up to 97 percent of its exports.

"Our priorities are, firstly, to maintain the current production level through regular maintenance and developing oilfields, and then security," the minister told AFP.

Arussi said Libya also plans to increase its oil refining capacity and to develop petrochemical industries that generate jobs.

Arussi said it would be in charge of refinery projects, the development of petrochemical industries and the modernisation of the Zawiya refinery in western Libya and expansion of those in Tobruk and Sarrir, to the east.

A refinery is to be built in the southern region of Sabha to meet the region's fuel demands, he said.

TRIPOLI (AFP) - Libya plans to invite bids from foreign firms for oil concessions by the end of 2013, Oil Minister Abdelbari al-Arussi told AFP on Wednesday, adding that Tripoli wants to increase its OPEC output quota.

Arussi reported "strong demand" from oil majors seeking to work in Libya, "a promising country with large surfaces which have not yet been explored, both on land and at sea."

Libya's last energy concessions, the fourth in the country's history, were granted in 2007 for natural gas exploration.

The minister also said that Tripoli plans to request a hike in its OPEC production quota, from the current level of 1.5 million barrels per day to 1.7 million bpd.

"We will ask for an additional quota at the next OPEC meetings... Our aim is to reach 1.7 million bpd," he said, adding that initial talks with the cartel have already started.

Arussi said Libya needed the extra funds to finance post-war reconstruction following the 2011 revolution which toppled

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Argentina's Bergoglio is first Latin American pope



Undated file photo of Argentina's cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio during a ceremony at the Buenos Aires cathedral. Bergoglio

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) - Argentina's Jorge Bergoglio, elected yesterday to lead the world's Roman Catholics, is a humble rail worker's son who became a Jesuit priest and who is seen as true to his working-class roots.

At 76, Bergoglio -- Latin America's first pope -- still has a reputation as an ascetic despite his archbishop's robes. He rides clattering city buses, makes his own meals and is famously accessible.

Bergoglio's choice of the papal name Francis, also a first, was seen as a highly non-traditional choice as it honors a saint known for stressing humility.

The name is in line with his reputation, and he is seen in Argentina as ideologically mainstream, while his Society of Jesus is regarded as being among the most progressive Church institutions, especially in education.

Sergio Rubin, religious writer for the Buenos Aires

newspaper Clarin, said that, like Pope John Paul II, Bergoglio is "conservative at the level of doctrine, and progressive on social issues."

For example, he has hit out sharply at the International Monetary Fund and at modern market capitalism.

Even so, Rubin acknowledged that Bergoglio's rejection of liberation theology remains controversial among left-leaning Argentines and Catholics.

Those who know him describe the Archbishop of Buenos Aires and primate of Argentina as a shy, softly-spoken man who shuns high society.

He was born December 17, 1936 to a rail worker who emigrated from northern Italy and a housewife.

The new pontiff went to a state-run school and studied to become a chemical technician.

When he graduated at 22, he joined the Jesuits and took

a degree in philosophy. He followed this with theology studies and was ordained in 1969.

He was only 36 when he was named to lead Argentina's Jesuits, a job he held for six difficult years under the country's military dictatorship.

Bergoglio battled to prevent Jesuits from joining the liberation theology movement, which drew many of the continent's Catholic priests into political activities challenging right-wing governments.

His spokesman Guillermo Marco recalled that he issued a simple order: "Maintain the non-politicization of the Society of Jesus."

Bergoglio's position was in line with that of John Paul II, who after becoming pope in 1978 directed a campaign to repress liberation theology.

In the 1980s Bergoglio studied for a doctorate in Freiburg, Germany, after which he returned to become a parish priest in Cordoba.

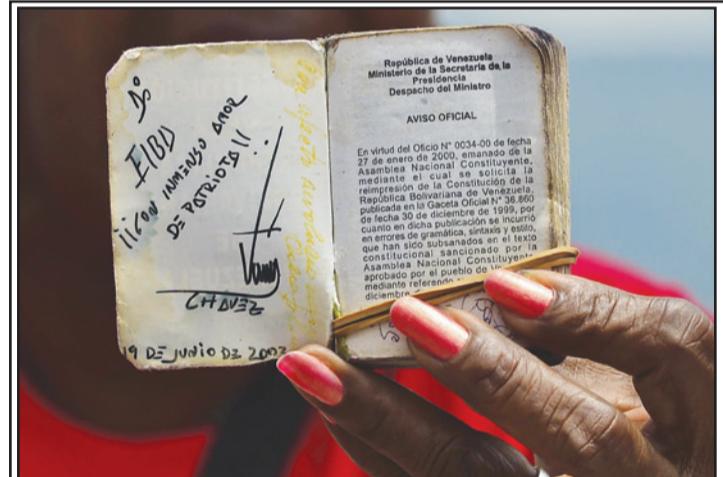
His ascent in the Catholic hierarchy began when in May 1992 Pope John Paul II named him assistant bishop of Buenos Aires. By 1998 he was archbishop of Buenos Aires and, three years later, a cardinal.

His reputation grew among bishops after he stepped in to produce the final report of the Church's October 2001 Synod when New York Archbishop Edward Egan was prevented from the task by the September 11 terrorist attacks.

A great student of writers Jorge Luis Borges and Fyodor Dostoyevsky, he rises at 4:30 am and is known to have little social life. Unlike most Argentines, he goes to bed at 9:00 pm.



RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) : Dead fish float on the waters of the Rodrigo de Freitas lagoon, beside the Corcovado mountain in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on March 13, 2013.



CARACAS (AFP)- A supporter shows a Venezuelan Constitution with a dedication from late President Hugo Chavez as President in Charge Nicolas Maduro (not depicted) speaks during the official registration of his candidacy for the upcoming presidential election at the National Electoral Council (SNE) in Caracas, on March 11, 2013. Venezuela has entered a bitter election race to succeed Hugo Chavez, with his chosen successor branding his challenger a "fascist" after the opposition candidate accused him of exploiting the late leader's death.

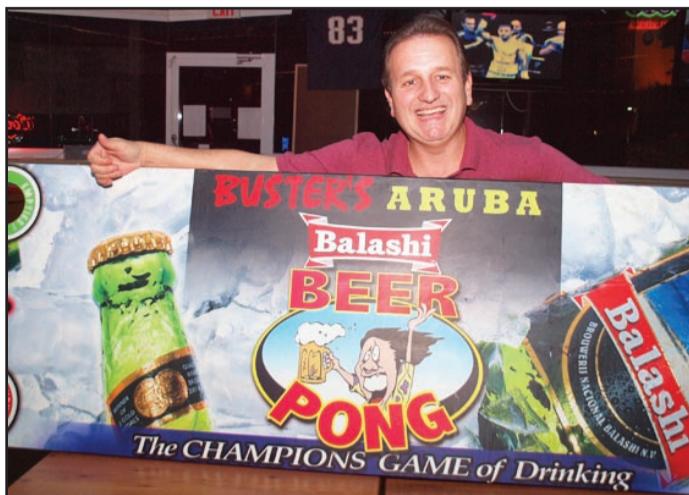
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Buster's is back in Eagle Beach at Trop Casino



The home of the Beer Pong drinking game

Fans of Aruba's favorite sports bar are happy to hear that Buster's Garage has relocated to the restaurant/bar space inside Trop Casino. Now Eagle Beach resort guests have a great place for a bargain-priced breakfast or a bucket of beer while rooting for the team of their choice.

Buster's has that great,

homey feel of settling in to enjoy a game with buddies, greatly due to the warmth and enthusiasm of owner Rusty. He takes pride in making patrons feel welcome. "If somebody really needs to watch their home team on the field, we'll be happy to put it on for them," he confidently assured us. "We have 3 satellite dishes



A whopping cheese nachos w/chicken dish

with separate packages to pick up every station imaginable. If there is a game going on out there somewhere, we'll find it."

With giant screens everywhere throughout the joint, there isn't a bad seat in the house. Aside from their all day menu of game-watching fa-



Threesome, takes care of the entertainment

vorites, they also feature a hearty breakfast menu. The "Grand Slam Platter" includes eggs any style, pancakes or waffles, bacon, juice, fresh made home fries with coffee or tea for only \$9. Lunch and dinner menus reflect the same moderate pricing with required sports bar standards such as chicken wings, club sandwiches, burgers and a heaping helping of nachos, averaging \$9; pizza and main courses range from \$11 to \$15.

Aside from the games and the gambling, patrons can ex-

pect great entertainment three nights weekly with one of Aruba's most popular trios, "Threesome." There are also some wild times getting acquainted with Rusty's Beer Pong, the Drinking Game of Champions. Win or lose, players always end up with a smile on their face.

This family friendly place, with air hockey and video games for the kids, along with a special menu for young ones, is open 7 days a week from 7:30 AM until 1:00 AM for late night snacking and fun.

Nights

Kevin Hart

There's nothing that I
really want:
The stars tonight are
rich and cold
Above my house that
vaguely broods
Upon a path soon lost
in dark.

My dinner plate is
chipped all round
(It tells me that I've
changed a lot);
My glass is cracked all
down one side
(It shows there is a
path for me).

My hands—I rest my
head on them.
My eyes—I rest my
mind on them.
There's nothing that I
really need
Before I set out on that
path.



Budget Car Rental celebrating 50 years budget-minded service!



Explore Aruba in a Jeep wrangler hard top

The car rental name synonymous with savings will next month celebrate their golden anniversary of operating on Aruba! One of the first of its kind to establish a car rental agency with highly competitive prices, it still maintains that standard of offering the best service, a diverse fleet of vehicles to meet each renters needs, at the best price possible.

Budget has a fleet of 250 autos on Aruba, ranging from subcompact to authentic Jeep Wrangler® hardtop 4X4 or the stylish Toyota Rav 4, for exploring Aruba's outback in air-conditioned comfort. Their standard Toyota Yaris, the most popular model, is known for quality and dependability. Each year, they refresh 25% of their fleet and

retire the older cars. Compared to the U.S., car rentals are quite affordable on Aruba, with the third party liability insurance included in the rental rates, as required by law.

Budget's head office is in Camacuri, not far from the airport, but they maintain an outlet right at the airport and another conveniently located in the Arawak Gardens in Palm Beach, an easy stroll from all the Palm Beach resorts. Budget will provide free transportation to their Arawak Gardens outlet from any hotel, and return you



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A Toyota Yaris rents for \$174 for the week; there is an additional airport concession fee to have a car available immediately on arrival, but this is balanced out by the cost of roundtrip fares to most resorts, and on weekly rentals is a decided savings.

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Sport

Dynasty: Father, son become back-to-back Iditarod champions



NOME (AFP) - A 53-year old man became the oldest-ever winner of Alaska's 1,000-mile (1,600-kilometer) Iditarod dog sled contest, one year after his son became the famed "mush

dog" race's youngest champion.

Mitch Seavey, from the town of Seward, Alaska, was first person to cross the finish line late Tuesday at 10:39 pm Alaska Time, to the cheers of thousands of fans who lined the streets of Nome.

His son Dallas, who was just 25 when he won the race last year, was a contestant in this year's race as well.

It was Mitch Seavey's second Iditarod championship; he won his first in 2004.

Seavey covered the grueling race trail in nine days, seven hours, 39 minutes and 56 seconds. The previous oldest winner, four-time champion Jeff King, was 50 years old when he won his last Iditarod.

Second place finisher Aliy Zirkle, who was last year's runner up, failed in her bid to become just the third woman to win an Iditarod.

It was the 41st running of the iconic mush-dog race, which on its final stage covered 49 miles (78 kilometers) of challenging terrain, including miles of rolling hills.

Organizers said early Wednesday that the race was not yet over and that it could take several days for the remaining mushers to finish the demanding trek into Nome.

Wrestling: Putin backs wrestling for Olympics

MOSCOW (AFP) - Russian President Vladimir Putin has put his weight behind wrestling's bid to remain in the Olympic programme after the ancient sport was nominated for exclusion from the 2020 Games.

Putin, who is a judo black belt and known for his love of wrestling and martial arts, said he would look to discuss the issue with the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Wrestling had been selected to disappear from the Games in 2020, to be replaced by an as yet unidentified sport, by the 15-member IOC Executive Board at their meeting on February 12.

But the omission of one of the most elementary Olympic sports has caused a wave of protest both from inside and outside wrestling circles.

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Football: Malaga continue dream European run

MALAGA (AFP) - Malaga's remarkable Champions League campaign continued on Wednesday when they beat Porto 2-0 to progress to the quarter-finals 2-1 on aggregate.

Trailing 1-0 after the first leg in Portugal, Malaga levelled the tie on aggregate when Isco scored with a stunning strike just before half-time.

If that gave the Spanish club confidence, they were left in an even stronger position when Porto had Steven Defour sent off for a second booking shortly after the restart.

And substitute Roque Santa Cruz scored the crucial goal, heading home with 13 minutes left, as Malaga become the third club from La Liga in the quarter-final draw, along with Real Madrid and Barcelona.



Roque Santa Cruz (right) celebrates scoring the goal that took Málaga into the quarter-finals

Still unbeaten in their domestic league this season, and leading thanks to Joao Moutinho's solitary strike in the first leg last month, Porto would have been confident of seeing off the challenge of Malaga at La Rosaleda.

Vitor Pereira's side started strongly, too, dominating possession despite the hostile atmosphere.

Malaga had not won a domestic game since losing the first leg in Portugal, and they took their time to come into the contest, but a strong finish to the first period saw them come right back into the tie.

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NBA: Bobcats beat Celtics, Heat rip Hawks to stretch win streak to 19 games, while Howard sparks Lakers

CHARLOTTE (AFP) - Gerald Henderson scored a career-high 35 points, going 12-of-12 in free throw attempts, as the Charlotte Bobcats snapped a 10-game losing streak on Tuesday by beating Boston 100-74.

Ben Gordon added 17 points and Josh McRoberts contributed 13 points and 10 rebounds for Charlotte, which had not won since February 19.

Jeff Green and Jordan Crawford each netted 14 points for the Celtics while Brandon Bass and Avery Bradley each added 10 points.

The Celtics, who rested playmaker Paul Pierce for the night and had only five points from star big man Kevin Gar-

nett, have lost two of three meetings with the Bobcats this season.

The Bobcats, who had the worst season winning percentage in NBA history last season, also have the worst record in the NBA this season, at 14-50. The Celtics fell to 34-29.

While in Miami- Dwyane Wade scored 23 points while LeBron James added 15 to spark the defending NBA champion Miami Heat to their 19th consecutive victory in a 99-81 rout of the Atlanta Hawks on Tuesday.

The Heat matched the fourth-longest single-season win streak in league history, trailing only the 20 in a row by Milwaukee in 1970-71, Houston's 22 in a row in 2007-08 and the Los Angeles Lakers' record run of 33 from 1971-72.

Miami also matched the record for the longest win streak by a defending NBA champion, a 19-game run by Boston in the 2008-09 campaign.

Wade contributed six assists and five steals while James added seven assists and seven rebounds on a night when he made only 3-of-11 shots from the field as the Heat won a 15th home game in a row, improving to 30-3 at home this season.

The Heat, 48-14, have not dropped a home game since losing to Chicago on January 4. But Miami will embark upon a five-game road trip that starts on Wednesday at Philadelphia and includes stops in Milwaukee, Toronto, Boston and Cleveland.

Wade said the Miami bench is a major factor in sustaining the win streak.

The Heat scored 27 points off a season-high 24 Atlanta turnovers and never trailed in producing the 14th double-digit victory margin in the

team's record run.

Miami, the only NBA team to clinch a playoff spot and also the only team to have beaten every other NBA team this season, led the Hawks by as many as 22 points.

Josh Smith led Atlanta with 15 points but the Hawks, 34-29, have dropped eight consecutive meetings with the Heat.

And in Orlando- Dwight Howard scored a season-high 39 points and grabbed 16 rebounds to lead the Los Angeles Lakers over the Orlando Magic 106-97 in a homecoming game Tuesday against his former NBA club.

Howard also matched his own NBA record for free throw attempts in a game with 39, sinking 25 of them while hitting 7-of-13 shots from the field as the Lakers improved to 34-31 in their fight for a Western Conference playoff berth.

Magic supporters who once cheered Howard booed him throughout the game as Orlando players deliberately fouled him at times, sending Howard to the free throw line where his success rate is lackluster at best.

In January of last year, Howard went 21-of-39 at the charity stripe against Golden

State to break an old NBA mark of 34 free throws in one game that Lakers legend Wilt Chamberlain had held for half a century.

During eight seasons with the Magic, Howard was a three-time NBA Defensive Player of the Year, a six-time All-Star and in 2009 he led the Magic to the NBA Finals. He averaged 18.4 points and 13.0 rebounds during his stay in Orlando.

Howard was traded to the Lakers in a four-team "Dwight-mare" deal last season and the Magic have revamped the roster this season, falling to 18-47.

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Baseball: US, Dominicans to play for semis berth after wins



MIAMI (AFP) - The star-studded United States and Dominican Republic lineups advanced to a showdown today for a semi-final berth in the World Baseball Classic.

David Wright blasted a three-run double and drove in five runs to power the US team over Puerto Rico 7-1 while Robinson Cano homered and scored the winning run as the Dominicans rallied to edge Italy 5-4.

Wright, who has knocked in a Classic-best 10 runs so far, expects the Dominicans to be the toughest squad the US has yet faced, with many of them familiar rivals from

years as rivals and teammates in Major League Baseball.

Both teams have something to prove in this event. The powerhouse Dominicans were ousted in the 2009 first round while the Americans have never reached the Classic final, falling in the second round in 2006 and in the 2009 semi-finals.

Two-time defending champion Japan and the upstart Netherlands, with plenty of talent from the Dutch Antilles, have already qualified for the March 18-19 semi-finals in San Francisco from the second-round group in Tokyo.

Boxing: Reinstated Chisora set for comeback fight

LONDON (AFP) - British heavyweight Dereck Chisora, involved in a well-publicised brawl with former world champion David Haye last year, is set for a return to the ring after being reissued with

a boxing licence.

The Londoner was stripped of his right to fight following the incident at a news conference after he unsuccessfully challenged Vitali Klitschko for the WBC heavyweight

title in Munich in early 2012.

But the British Boxing Board of Control has now reinstated the Zimbabwean-born fighter and he is lined up for a comeback fight against an unnamed opponent on April 20.

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